

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The present invention claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application S.N. 60/459,677, filed April 2, 2003 titled "METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR DATA TRANSMISSION IN A BLOCK-COHERENT COMMUNICATION SYSTEM" and is a continuation-in-part of pending U.S. Patent Application S.N. 10/637,844, filed August 8, 2003 titled "METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR DATA TRANSMISSION IN A BLOCK-COHERENT COMMUNICATION SYSTEM".